

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE
National Urban League

REPORT ON BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA

January 23, 1952

MEMORANDUM

TO: Reginald A. Johnson, Director
Field Services
and
Julius A. Thomas, Director
Industrial Relations and Vocational Guidance

FROM: Ray E. Morris
Field Secretary

SUBJ: NUL-UCDS Exploratory survey of the Impact of the Defense Emergency
on Bristol, Pennsylvania, and the Relationship of Bristol, Pennsylv-
ania to the Social Problems Connected With Developments in Bucks
County. December 19, 1951.

Bristol, Pennsylvania, is a very small town with one business street about eight blocks long and which is, in fact, the center of town. Although the local Pennsylvania State Employment Service office is the one that serves the area in which the U.S. Steel Fairless Works is located, the town of Bristol does not appear to be sharing in any of the building going on nearer the Fairless Works.

The town shows its over-crowded conditions. The streets are full of cars and the very few eating places are jammed with people - quite noticeably out of keeping with usual conditions in such a small place. Not one Negro was seen during the several hours of the surveyor's visit, but "a few" do live there.

Social services in the town are almost non-existent. There is no hospital, for instance. All persons needing hospitalization usually go to Trenton, as do well persons for most other health and welfare services. A hospital is supposed to be completed in Bristol in late 1953 or early 1954. There is one Negro M.D. living in Bristol. Lower Bucks County citizens are resisting efforts and interests of Trenton and Philadelphia social agency leadership. Instead, they are developing the Lower Bucks County United Fund. General comments report few signs of significant progress, so far.

Bristol, Pa.

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In addition to casual conversations with two storekeepers, the only conference held was with the manager of the local Pennsylvania State Employment Service office, who said that no large-scale referring to Fairless Works has begun yet. Moreover, he understands that the Trenton (New Jersey) State Employment Service office will do most of the referral business with Fairless Works.

As yet, officials of Fairless Works have not been too cooperative regarding specifics of their expected needs. They have some 8,000 applications for jobs on hand already, with almost hundreds coming by mail every day.

The local SES manager sought to impress upon the surveyor his wish to cooperate with the National Urban League in every way possible. For the present, there isn't much to be done through the Bristol office regarding Negroes. When job-orders are received from Fairless Works, Negroes will be screened against them fairly. However, the Negroes known to that office so far are common laborers - coal loaders, etc.

cc: Mr. Granger, Mr. Moss
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Mr. Pepe, Mr. Finley, Miss Tannayhill